IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph at page 1, line 21, to page 2, line 13, as follows:

On the Internet, each computer has an identifier called an "IP address", and packets are exchanged on the basis of these IP addresses. However, an IP address is a string of numbers, and it is difficult for human beings to remember such a string of numbers; nonetheless, in order to access the computer through the Internet, the IP address must be specified. In order to solve this problem, a domain name system (DNS) has been devised. The DNS is a kind of database system, and one of the functions thereof is to mutually convert an IP address, which is a string of numbers and, into a fully qualified domain name (FQDN), which is easy for human beings to remember. That is, this is equivalent to an action of searching for an IP address corresponding to the FQDN in a database system for a DNS. An application which uses the Internet usually uses this DNS so as to convert a host name (this is usually an FQDN), which is input by a user, into an IP address, and to send data packets to the target site on the Internet.

Please amend the paragraph at page 16, lines 2-12, as follows:

A request management section 12 7 has a request management table for managing information for inquiries such that temporary inquiries are being made. The request management table, as shown in Fig. 4, is composed of a temporary ID, an optimum response termination flag, all original inquiry packets, and a flag indicating a server information group table. The server information group table is formed of information obtained from the server information group management section 3, and is composed of a server address, a failure counter, priority, and a cache capability flag, which are shown in Fig. 5.

Please amend the paragraph at page 16, lines 13-18, as follows:

The request management section ~~12~~ 7 adds an appropriate tuple to this request

management table each time a new temporary inquiry is issued. Also, the request

management section ~~12~~ 7 deletes an appropriate tuple in accordance with a request from the

response selection section each time processing for a certain original response is terminated.